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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 33rd, 34th, 37th, 38th, 42nd and 44th meetings, on 13, 14, 18 and 20 November and 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.33, 34, 37, 38, 42 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.38 and A/C.2/57/L.83

2. At the 37th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of the Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/57/L.38), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 56/226 of 24 December 2001,

"*Recalling also* the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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"*Having considered* the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Welcoming* the adoption by the Summit of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development on 4 September 2002,

"*Expressing its satisfaction* that the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory committee provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies at the highest level, and of observers and various intergovernmental organizations, as well as the major groups representing all the regions of the world in a bottom-up process,

"*Reaffirming* the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing components of sustainable development,

"*Reaffirming also* that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

"*Noting* the announcement at the Summit of various partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups,

"*Expressing its profound gratitude* to the Governments and the peoples of Indonesia and South Africa for hosting, respectively, the fourth preparatory committee meeting and the Summit, for the excellent arrangements, the hospitality extended to participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

"1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"2. *Endorses* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

"3. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds, programmes and regional commissions, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take urgent action to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation;

"4. *Calls* for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets reached at the World Summit and, to this end, the provision of the means of implementation;

"5. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission on Sustainable Development holds an organizational session early in 2003;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of the Commission, taking into account the decisions contained in the Plan of Implementation;

"7. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to take into full account the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the decisions taken on the institutional framework for sustainable development reflected in chapter X of the Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations;

"8. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth and subsequent sessions an item entitled 'Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development'."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/57/L.83), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.38.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.83 (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.83, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L. 38 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.45 and A/C.2/57/L.71

6. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the Japan, on behalf of Andorra, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Gabon, Greece, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, the Marshall Islands, Nicaragua, Panama, the Sudan, Thailand and Uganda, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/57/L.45). Subsequently, Algeria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, Guatemala, Haiti, Indonesia, Israel, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, Mongolia and the Russian Federation joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* chapter 36 of Agenda 21 on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992,

"*Appreciating* the contribution made by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development to the issue of education for sustainable development since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

"*Welcoming* the fact that the Plan of Implementation adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, confirmed the importance of education for sustainable development and recommended that the General Assembly consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development starting in 2005,

"*Emphasizing* that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

"1. *Decides* to proclaim the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2005 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

"2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and requests it to develop a draft international implementation scheme, clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, including education for all, in consultation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to providing guidance for Governments to incorporate concrete measures to promote education for sustainable development in their respective national educational plan;

"3. *Invites* Governments to include the necessary concrete measures to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their respective national educational plan by the year 2005, in accordance with the international implementation scheme to be prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

"4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled 'United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development'."

7. At its 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Summit on Sustainable Development" (A/C.2/57/L.71), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.45.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.71 (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.71, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.45 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Draft resolution I
World Summit on Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/199 of 20 December 2000 and 56/226 of 24 December 2001,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] Agenda 21[2] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[3]

Having considered the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[4] held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Reaffirming in this regard the commitment to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[5] and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992,

Welcoming the adoption by the Summit of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[7] on 4 September 2002,

Expressing its satisfaction that the World Summit on Sustainable Development and its preparatory committee provided for the active participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies, of observers and various intergovernmental organizations, including the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, at the highest level as well as the major groups representing all the regions of the world,

Reaffirming the need to ensure a balance between economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development,

Reaffirming also that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,

Recognizing that good governance within each country and at the international level is essential for sustainable development,

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

Expressing its profound gratitude to the Governments and the peoples of Indonesia and South Africa for hosting, respectively, the fourth preparatory committee meeting and the Summit, for the excellent arrangements, for the hospitality extended to participants and for the facilities, staff and services placed at their disposal,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1).

[5] See resolution 55/2.

[6] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

1. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;[4]

2. *Endorses* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;[7]

3. *Decides* to adopt sustainable development as a key element of the overarching framework for United Nations activities, in particular for achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[5] and to give overall political direction to the implementation of Agenda 21 and its review;

4. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, the Economic and Social Council, United Nations funds, programmes and regional economic commissions, specialized agencies, international financial institutions, the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely actions to ensure the effective follow-up and implementation of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

5. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and calls for further discussion of this matter within the Commission on Sustainable Development;

6. *Calls* for the implementation of the commitments, programmes and time-bound targets adopted at the World Summit and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions of the means of implementation as contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

7. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to ensure that the Commission on Sustainable Development holds an organizational meeting of its next session in January 2003 and its session in April/May 2003;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals on the modalities of the future work of the Commission, taking into account the decisions contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

9. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to implement the provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation relevant to its mandate and, in particular, to promote the implementation of Agenda 21 by strengthening system-wide coordination;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take into full account the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular the decisions made on the institutional framework for sustainable development as contained in chapter XI of the Plan of Implementation, in the ongoing process of reform of the United Nations and in his contribution to the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session an item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development", and requests the Secretary-General at that session to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution II
United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

The General Assembly,

Recalling chapter 36 of Agenda 21, on promoting education, public awareness and training, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992,[8]

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goal of achieving universal primary education, in particular that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling,

Appreciating the contribution made by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the issue of education for sustainable development since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Welcoming the fact that the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development confirmed the importance of education for sustainable development and recommended that the General Assembly consider adopting a decade of education for sustainable development starting in 2005,[9]

Emphasizing that education is an indispensable element for achieving sustainable development,

1. *Decides* to proclaim the ten-year period beginning on 1 January 2005 the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development;

2. *Designates* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization as the lead agency for the promotion of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and requests it to develop a draft international implementation scheme, clarifying its relationship with the existing educational processes, in particular the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum[10] and the United Nations Literacy Decade,[11] in consultation with the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, with a view to providing recommendations for Governments on how to promote and improve the integration of education for sustainable development in their respective educational strategies and action plans at the appropriate level;

3. *Invites* Governments to consider the inclusion of measures to implement the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in their

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[8] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[9] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[10] See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

[11] See resolution 56/116.

respective educational strategies and action plans by 2005, taking into account the international implementation scheme to be prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development".

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Agenda item 87 (b)

Environment and sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 20th, 40th, 42nd and 44th meetings, on 30 October and 4, 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20, 40, 42 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.16 and A/C.2/57/L.54

2. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/57/L.16), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and rehabilitate the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Welcoming* the efforts made by the Government of Ecuador in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the announcement made regarding the January 2003 opening of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon in Guayaquil, Ecuador,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Encourages* the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to continue their joint efforts aimed at the completion of the process to establish the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon;

"3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research centre at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to studying the El Niño phenomenon;

"4. *Encourages* the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links with other relevant regional and global climate-study organizations, as well as with Internet information services, in order to ensure an effective and efficient use of the available resources;

"5. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to ensure appropriate consideration of measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events, like the El Niño phenomenon, in the process of the ten-year review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220, 55/197 and 56/194 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

"7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

3. At the 40th meeting, on 4 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/57/L.54), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.54 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.54, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.16 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.21 and A/C.2/57/L.69

6. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/57/L.21), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 2ν December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999 and 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

"*Emphasizing* the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieving jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that disaster reduction is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Recalling* that the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is on the second Wednesday of October,

"*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

"*Stressing* the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the field of natural disasters within the framework of action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in line with their respective skills and capacities, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, inter alia, through capacity-building at all levels,

"*Stressing also* the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to develop further and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted by the Summit, which was held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, in particular relevant references in paragraph 13 of the Declaration as well as paragraph 35 of the Plan of Implementation,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to provide specific proposals, including a timetable and measurable targets, for the implementation of the actions agreed to by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation on this matter, to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

"3. *Decides* to take a decision concerning the date of the final event marking the conclusion of the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action, at its fifty-eighth session;

"4. *Requests* the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to coordinate, and report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the progress of the ten-year review process of the Yokohama Strategy;

"5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat;

"6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to provide the adequate scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat and the Inter-Agency Task Force and its working groups;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development'."

7. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International

Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/57/L.69), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.21.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.69 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.69, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.21 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22 and draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75

10. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/57/L.22), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer and that, more specifically, the loss of biodiversity continues, fish stocks continue to be depleted, desertification claims more and more fertile land, adverse effects of climate change are already evident, natural disasters are more frequent and more devastating, as developing countries become more vulnerable, and air, water and marine pollution continues to rob millions of a decent life,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable developing countries, are being exposed to extreme weather events of global reach, such as the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Bearing in mind* that the devastating economic, social and environmental consequences of natural disasters fall disproportionately on poor countries and that the future impacts of extreme weather events will maintain this negative trend,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development adopted by the Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"1. *Welcomes* the adoption of the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular paragraph 35, which calls for the implementation of an integrated, inclusive, multi-hazard approach to addressing vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, including prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, as an essential element of a safer world in the twenty-first century;

"2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means to reduce the adverse effects of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages its Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, particularly its working group on climate and natural disasters, to continue its work in this regard;

"3. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural systems of developing countries;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution within its report under the sub-item entitled 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction'."

11. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft decision (A/C.2/57/L.75), which he submitted following informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75 (see para. 15).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft decision A/C.2/57/L.75, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.22 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000 and 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999 and 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[2]

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[1] *Report of the World Conference on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the efforts undertaken by the Government of Ecuador, in cooperation with the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, towards the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and the announcement made regarding its opening in January 2003, and encourages all parties to continue their joint efforts for the development of the Centre;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant funds, programmes and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community, to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the establishment of the above-mentioned research Centre at Guayaquil, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Encourages* the Centre, once established, to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrologic services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. *Invites* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to ensure that measures needed to address more effectively extreme meteorological and hydrologic events like the El Niño phenomenon are considered appropriately in the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action;[4]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the full implementation of its resolutions 52/200, 53/185, 54/220, 55/197 and 56/194 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46, 1999/63 and 2000/33;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

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[3] A/57/189.

[4] A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

Draft resolution II
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999 and 56/195 of 21 December 2001 and Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/63 of 30 July 1999, and taking note of Council resolution 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

Emphasizing the multisectoral, interdisciplinary and cross-cutting nature of natural disaster reduction, and stressing that continued interaction, cooperation and partnerships among the institutions concerned are considered essential to achieving jointly agreed objectives and priorities,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

Recalling that the annual observance of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction is on the second Wednesday of October,

Recalling also the results, including the lessons learned, of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, outlined in the Geneva mandate on disaster reduction and the strategy document entitled "A safer world in the twenty-first century: risk and disaster reduction",[5]

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Stressing the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts in the field of natural disasters, in line with their respective skills and capacities, from prevention to early warning, response, mitigation, rehabilitation and reconstruction, inter alia, through capacity-building at all levels, where appropriate within the framework of action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,

Stressing also the need for Governments to continue to cooperate and coordinate their efforts with the United Nations system, other international organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, in order to ensure effective synergies in the field of natural disasters,

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[5] Adopted at the programme forum on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, held at Geneva from 5 to 9 July 1999.

Recognizing the urgent need to develop further and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Recognizing also the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[6] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[7]

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the World Summit,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[8]

2. *Welcomes* the memorandum of understanding signed between the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Development Programme, and encourages the secretariat to pursue the establishment of similar arrangements with other international organizations in order to improve synergies and clarify respective roles;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in reporting to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, to provide specific proposals to Member States for the implementation of the actions on this matter agreed to by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in its Plan of Implementation;[7]

4. *Decides* to take a decision on how to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and its Plan of Action[9] at its fifty-eighth session;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, to plan and coordinate, in consultation with Governments and relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including international financial institutions, the 2004 review of the Yokohama Strategy and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session in this regard;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat;

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[6] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[8] A/57/190.

[9] A/CONF.172/9, resolution 1, annex I.

7. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat and the Inter-Agency Task Force and its working groups;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development".

* * *

15. The Second Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Natural disasters and vulnerability

The General Assembly decides:

(a) To consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at its fifty-eighth session under the sub-item entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the agenda item entitled "Environment and sustainable development";

(b) To request the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the negative impacts of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters on vulnerable countries, in particular developing countries, in a separate section of his report on the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 87 (c)

Environment and sustainable development: protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 38th and 44th meetings, on 20 November and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.38 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.43 and A/C.2/57/L.90

2. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/57/L.43), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolution 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

02-73908 (E) 171202

"*Noting* that most States and one regional economic integration organization have acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"*Reaffirming* that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and foremost overriding priorities of developing countries,

"*Remaining deeply concerned* that all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risk from the adverse impacts of climate change,

"*Noting* that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change has attracted 97 ratifications,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Expressing* its deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

"1. *Recalls* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol thereto;

"2. *Urges* Parties that have not already done so to ratify the Kyoto Protocol in a timely manner;

"3. *Takes note* of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its eighth session;

"4. *Calls upon* all States parties to continue to take effective steps to implement their commitments under the Convention, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;

"5. *Stresses* the importance of providing technical and financial assistance and capacity-building to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in accordance with commitments under the Convention, including the Marrakesh Accords;

"6. *Emphasizes* that technology transfer should be strengthened, including through concrete projects and capacity-building in all relevant sectors, such as energy, transport, industry, health, agriculture, biodiversity, forestry and waste management. Technological advances should be promoted through research and development, economic diversification and strengthening

of relevant regional, national and local institutions for sustainable development;

"7. *Emphasizes also* that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change is of high priority for all countries. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States. Adaptation requires urgent attention and action on the part of all countries. Effective and results-based measures should be supported for the development of approaches at all levels on vulnerability and adaptation, as well as capacity-building for the integration of adaptation concerns into sustainable development strategies. The measures should include full implementation of existing commitments under the Convention and the Marrakesh Accords;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

"9. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention to report in a timely manner to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention;

"10. *Invites also* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind'."

3. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/57/SR.38).

4. At its 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/57/L.56).

5. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind" (A/C.2/57/L.90), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43.

6. Also at its 44th meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/57/L.56 did not apply to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90 (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

8. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Japan, Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union) and Canada (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.90, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.43 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.47 and A/C.2/57/L.91

10. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Canada, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Iceland, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malta, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia, introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Climate Change Conference" (A/C.2/57/L.47). Subsequently, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mongolia, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Acknowledging* that change in the earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind,

"*Noting* that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation,

"*Welcoming* the ongoing work in the United Nations system on climate change, in particular within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which is the key instrument for addressing this global concern,

"*Referring* to relevant decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

"*Recognizing* with concern the findings of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which confirms that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to meet the ultimate objective of the Framework Convention, and recognizing the ongoing consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the implications of the report,

"*Reaffirming* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner,

"*Recognizing* the need for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange of scientific data and information,

"*Stressing* that the World Climate Change Conference will be supportive of the Framework Convention process,

"*Noting* the importance of broad participation in this process by Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society,

"1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Russian Federation to convene the World Climate Change Conference at Moscow from 29 September to 3 October 2003 as a forum aimed at exchanging views among the scientific community, Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the private sector and other representatives of civil society and at facilitating the implementation of existing policies related to climate change;

"2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations and institutions of the United Nations system, as well as other international and national organizations, parliaments, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society to participate actively in the Conference;

"3. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Conference in order to increase awareness of the importance of international efforts to address climate change."

11. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey) and Norway (see A/C.2/57/SR.38).

12. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "World Climate Change Conference" (A/C.2/57/L.91), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.47.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.91 (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of China, the Russian Federation and Japan (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.91, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.47 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/222 of 22 December 1999, its decision 55/443 of 20 December 2000 and its resolution 56/199 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind,

Noting that most States and one regional economic integration organization have acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[1]

Recalling the provisions of the Convention, including the acknowledgement that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Recalling also the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

Remaining deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, face increased risks of negative impacts of climate change,

Noting that, to date, the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] has attracted ninety-seven ratifications,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[4]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of India for hosting the eighth session of the Conference of the Parties at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

Taking note of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5]

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[6] in which heads of State and Government resolved to make every effort to ensure the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol, preferably by the tenth anniversary of the United Nations

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[2] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] See A/57/350.

[6] See resolution 55/2.

Conference on Environment and Development in 2002, and to embark on the required reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases,[7]

1. *Calls upon* States to work cooperatively towards achieving the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;[1]

2. *Notes* that States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol[1] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[2] strongly urge the States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner;

3. *Takes note* of the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session;

4. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[8] and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[9] and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

5. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to report in a timely manner to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the work of the Conference of the Parties;

6. *Invites* the conferences of the parties to the multilateral environmental conventions, when setting the dates of their meetings, to take into consideration the schedule of meetings of the General Assembly and the Commission on Sustainable Development so as to ensure the adequate representation of developing countries at those meetings;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind".

Draft resolution II
World Climate Change Conference

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging that change in the earth's climate and its adverse effects are a common concern of humankind,

Acknowledging also that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation, consistent with the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[10]

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[7] Ibid., para. 23.
[8] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.
[9] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.
[10] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Welcoming the ongoing work in the United Nations system on climate change, in particular within the framework of the Convention which is the key instrument for addressing this global concern,

Recalling the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[11] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[12]

Recalling also the Delhi Ministerial Declaration on Climate Change and Sustainable Development, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighth session, held at New Delhi from 23 October to 1 November 2002,

Recognizing with concern the findings of the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,[13] which confirm that significant cuts in global emissions will be necessary to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention, and recognizing the ongoing consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the implications of the report,

Reaffirming the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in which States that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[14] strongly urge States that have not yet done so to ratify it in a timely manner,[15]

Recognizing the need for strengthening scientific and technological capabilities and networks for the exchange of scientific data and information,

Stressing that the World Climate Change Conference will be supportive of the Convention process,

Noting the importance of broad participation in this process by Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society,

1. *Welcomes* the initiative of the Government of the Russian Federation to convene the World Climate Change Conference at Moscow from 29 September to 3 October 2003 as a forum for the exchange of views among the scientific community, Governments, parliaments, international and national organizations, the private sector and other representatives of civil society and for facilitating the implementation of existing policies related to climate change;

2. *Encourages* Member States and relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other international and national organizations, parliaments, the scientific community, the private sector and other representatives of civil society, to participate actively in the Conference;

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[11] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[12] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[13] *Climate Change, 2001* (Cambridge, United Kingdom, Cambridge University Press, July 2001 and March 2002), four volumes.

[14] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[15] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 38.

3. *Invites* Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to take advantage of the Conference in order to increase awareness of the importance of international efforts to address climate change.

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Environment and sustainable development: implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (d) was taken at the 20th and 44th meetings, on 30 October and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20 and 44).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.17 and A/C.2/57/L.89

2. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/57/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

"*Welcoming* the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, inter alia, the subsections on desertification of the Plan of Implementation of the Summit, in particular paragraph 39 (f),

"*Welcoming also* the outcomes of the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the adoption of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, as a new focal area of the Facility,

"*Recognizing* the strong commitment of the international community demonstrated at the World Summit for Sustainable Development and the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention and, in this regard, the need for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention as the supreme body of the Convention to take the necessary decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003, so as to promote the effective implementation of the Convention,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Havana, in September 2003,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should so decide, and requests the Council of the Facility to consider any such decision of the Conference of the Parties with a view to making the necessary arrangements;

"3. *Calls upon* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its sixth session to be held in Havana in September 2003, responding to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to request the Facility to become a financial mechanism of the Convention and requests the Council of the Facility at its forthcoming meeting in November 2003 to make the necessary arrangements in this regard;

"4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the full implementation of the Convention by the Facility so as to fully achieve the

objectives of the Convention in the area of land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation;

"5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2003 meeting to adopt the Operational Programme for the Prevention and Control of Desertification through Sustainable Land Management;

"6. *Emphasizes* that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing-country parties need the full support of the Global Environment Facility and other partners for enabling activities in order to assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention;

"7. *Welcomes* the successful third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund and calls upon countries in a position to do so to make additional contributions in order to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of recipient countries;

"8. *Notes with appreciation* the increased number of developing-country parties that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes and urges affected developing-country parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community to contribute to the implementation of those programmes through the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

"10. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

"11. *Calls upon* Governments, multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provision for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies, including the seventh ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties and the meetings of its subsidiary bodies, in his proposal for the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

"13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa'."

3. At its 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a statement of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/57/L.57).

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/57/L.89), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17.

5. The Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/57/L.57 did not apply to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.89.

6. Also at its 44th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.89 (see para. 9).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Canada (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.89, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.17 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

9. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/196 of 21 December 2001 and other resolutions relating to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1]

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Italy for the organization of the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention in Rome, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, from 11 to 22 November 2002,

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3]

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

Welcoming the outcomes of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, held in Beijing from 16 to 18 October 2002, particularly the decision on making land degradation, primarily desertification and deforestation, a new focal area of the Facility,

Recognizing the strong commitment of the international community, demonstrated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to make the Facility available as a financial mechanism of the Convention pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, and in this regard encourages the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as the supreme body of the Convention, to take the appropriate decision to that effect at its next ordinary session in 2003,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Cuba to host the sixth ordinary session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held at Havana in September 2003,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility that the Facility shall be available to serve as a financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[1] pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, if the Conference of the Parties to the Convention should so decide, and in this regard notes with satisfaction that the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility has requested the Council of the Facility to consider any such decision of the Conference of the Parties with a view to making the necessary arrangements;

3. *Invites* the Conference of the Parties at its sixth session, to be held at Havana in September 2003, responding to the call of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the decision of the Second Assembly of the Global Environment Facility, to consider making the Facility a financial mechanism of the Convention as a means of promoting the availability of financial mechanisms, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention, while recognizing the complementary roles of the Global Environment Facility and the Global Mechanism in providing and mobilizing resources for the elaboration and implementation of action programmes;

4. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties and the Council and Assembly of the Global Environment Facility to continue to collaborate closely and effectively to facilitate the financing of the successful implementation of the Convention by

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[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] A/57/177.

supporting financial mechanisms such as the Facility so as to fully achieve the objectives of the Convention;

5. *Invites* the Council of the Global Environment Facility at its May 2003 meeting to finalize and adopt the operational programme for land degradation, particularly desertification and deforestation;

6. *Emphasizes* that, in the light of the ongoing assessment of the implementation of the Convention, the affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention need the full and effective support of the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, and other partners for capacity-building and other activities which assist them in meeting their obligations under the Convention;

7. *Welcomes* the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund which will provide additional resources necessary to enable the Facility to continue to be responsive to the needs and concerns of its recipient countries;

8. *Calls upon* all countries and other entities in a position to do so to make additional contributions to the Global Environment Facility;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the increased number of developing countries that are parties to the Convention and that have adopted their national, subregional and regional action programmes, and urges the affected parties that have not yet done so to accelerate the process of elaboration and adoption of their action programmes with a view to finalizing them as soon as possible;

10. *Invites* affected developing countries to place the implementation of their action programmes to combat desertification high among their priorities in their dialogue with their development partners;

11. *Notes with satisfaction* the steps being taken by affected developing countries that are parties to the Convention, with the assistance of international organizations and bilateral development partners, to implement the Convention and the efforts being made to promote the participation of all actors of civil society in the elaboration and implementation of national action programmes to combat desertification, and in that regard encourages countries to cooperate at the subregional and regional levels, as appropriate;

12. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the Global Mechanism, and encourages further efforts in that regard for the effective implementation of the Convention;

13. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to contribute to the implementation of action programmes through, inter alia, the conclusion of partnership agreements as well as the bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes that are available to implement the Convention, including contributions from non-governmental organizations and the private sector, and to support the efforts of the developing countries to implement the Convention;

14. *Invites* all parties to pay promptly and in full the contributions required for the core budget of the Convention for the biennium 2002-2003, and urges all parties that have not yet paid their contributions for the year 1999 and/or the biennium 2000-2001 to do so as soon as possible in order to ensure continuity in the

cash flow required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the secretariat and the Global Mechanism;

15. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] and encourages continuing cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

16. *Invites* the United Nations Development Programme to implement decision 2000/23 of 29 September 2000 of its Executive Board,[7] pertaining to the cooperation between the secretariat of the Convention and the United Nations Development Programme, in order to mainstream activities to combat desertification at the national, subregional and regional levels;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, and invites multilateral financial institutions, regional development banks, regional economic integration organizations and all other interested organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to contribute generously to the General Fund, the Supplementary Fund and the Special Fund, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties,[8] and welcomes the financial support already provided by some countries;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa".

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[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 15* (E/2000/35), part four.

[8] ICCD/COP (1)/11/Add.1 and Corr.1, decision 2/COP.1, annex, paras. 7-11.

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Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (e) was taken at the 20th and 42nd meetings, on 30 October and 10 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20 and 42).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.18 and A/C.2/57/L.67

2. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/57/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 56/197 of 21 December 2001 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,

"*Reaffirming* the sovereign rights of States over their own biological resources,

"*Reaffirming also* the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources,

"*Underlining* the importance of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, the development and legal protection of that knowledge and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of its commercial use,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Expressing* its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

"2. *Notes* the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, hosted by the Government of the Netherlands from 7 to 19 April 2002;

"3. *Notes also* the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002;

"4. *Welcomes* the fact that 185 countries and 1 regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it;

"5. *Calls* upon parties to the Convention to become parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety as soon as possible;

"6. *Reiterates* the importance of the decision of the fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting to examine, through the World Trade Organization Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge;

"7. *Underlines* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries, as expressed in paragraph 44 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries;

"8. *Underlines also* the decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate an international regime to promote and

safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, as expressed in paragraph 44 (o) of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and in this regard urges the Conference of the Parties to take the necessary steps for its prompt implementation;

"9. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages cooperation to promote complementarities among the three secretariats while respecting their independent legal status;

"10. *Calls* upon the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to strengthen its efforts to help developing countries build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety including in the areas of risk management and risk assessment;

"11. *Welcomes* the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House and calls for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, including in the areas of risk management and risk assessment;

"12. *Emphasizes* the need for a substantial increase in international financial support for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol;

"13. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

"14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled 'Convention on Biological Diversity'."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity" (A/C.2/57/L.67), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.18.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.67 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark (on behalf of the States members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia), the United States of America and Australia (see A/C.2/57/SR.42).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.67, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.18 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/201 of 20 December 2000 and 56/197 of 21 December 2001 on the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Reaffirming that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources,

Underlining the importance of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, their development and wider application with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, their protection subject to national legislation, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their commercial use, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[2] and the Plan of Implementation, of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[3]

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups, and announced at the Summit,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of the Netherlands for hosting the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[4] held at The Hague from 7 to 26 April 2002,

Also expressing its deep appreciation for the generous offer of the Government of Malaysia to host the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which will be held in Kuala Lumpur in 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly;[5]

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. 1, resolution 1, annex.

[3] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[4] See UNEP/CBD/ExCOP/1/3 and Corr.1, part two, annex.

[5] See A/57/220.

2. *Notes* the outcome of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[6] hosted by the Government of the Netherlands from 7 to 19 April 2002;

3. *Also notes* the outcome of the third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held at The Hague from 22 to 26 April 2002;

4. *Welcomes* the fact that one hundred eighty-five States and one regional economic integration organization have become parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1] and urges States that have not joined the Convention to become parties to it;

5. *Invites* parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[4] as soon as possible;

6. *Reiterates* the importance of the decision of the fourth World Trade Organization Ministerial Meeting to examine, through the World Trade Organization Council on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, the relationship between the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[7] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge;

7. *Recalls* the commitments made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to pursue a more efficient and coherent implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the achievement by 2010 of a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity, which will require the provision of new and additional financial and technical resources to developing countries and includes actions at all levels, and in this regard calls upon the international community to provide the necessary support to developing countries and stresses the importance of the effective use of resources;

8. *Recalls also* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to negotiate within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind the Bonn Guidelines,[8] an international regime to promote and safeguard the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and invites the Conference of the Parties to take appropriate steps in this regard;

9. *Recalls further* the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to implement the expanded action-oriented work programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity on all types of forest biological diversity, in close cooperation with the United Nations Forum on Forests, members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and other forest-related processes and conventions, with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders;

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[6] Bearing in mind the procedural concerns of some States relating to decision VI/23, and in this regard noting the deliberations and decisions of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to addressing these concerns at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (see paras. 294-324 of the report of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the minutes of the meeting of the Bureau of the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Montreal, Canada, on 23 and 24 September 2002).

[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1869, No. 31874.

[8] Bonn Guidelines on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their utilization (decision VI/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity).

10. *Notes* the ongoing work of the liaison group of the secretariats and officers of the relevant subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[9] the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa[10] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and encourages continued cooperation to promote complementarities among the secretariats, while respecting their independent legal status;

11. *Calls upon* the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to work closely with the Global Environment Facility and other relevant institutions to help developing countries to build the required national capacities to prepare for the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,[4] including in the areas of risk assessment and risk management;

12. *Welcomes* the launching of the pilot phase of the Biosafety Clearing House, and calls for strengthened international support for developing countries to build their national capacities to interact with it and to benefit from its expeditious strengthening so that it becomes fully functional at the time of the entry into force of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;

13. *Emphasizes* the need for a substantial increase in financial and technical resources for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety by developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard welcomes the successful and substantial third replenishment of the Global Environment Facility;

14. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work regarding the Convention;

15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1171, No. 30822.

[10] Ibid., vol. 1954, No. 33480.

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Environment and sustainable development: further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 20th, 42nd and 44th meetings, on 30 October and 10 and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.20, 42 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.19 and A/C.2/57/L.66

2. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/57/L.19), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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Development of Small Island Developing States, as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

"*Welcoming* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation adopted by the World Summit for Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September, in particular chapters IV and VII of the Plan of Implementation,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and emphasizing the fundamental character of the Convention,

"*Conscious* that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and that they need to be considered as a whole,

"*Recalling* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Welcoming* the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Welcoming also* the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Underlining* the importance of the ongoing work of the group on climate and disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Recognizing* the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, presents a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000 and GC (46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002 of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Noting* the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

"*Welcoming* the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish a working group of experts to further advance the implementation of the resolution, including through the preparation of a technical report,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

"2. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;

"3. *Encourages also* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

"4. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the working group of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolution 55/203 and invites the Association of Caribbean States to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly in 2004;

"5. *Calls also upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

"6. *Calls further upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

"7. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

"8. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries to become parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, including the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

"10. *Calls also upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations."

3. At the 42nd meeting, on 10 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development" (A/C.2/57/L.66), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.19.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.66 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.66, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.19 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.20 and A/C.2/57/L.64

6. At the 20th meeting, on 30 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/57/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session, and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000 and 56/198 of 21 December 2001, and recalling further the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development adopted by the Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, and the call for the General Assembly to convene an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004,

"*Recalling* the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States,

"*Recognizing* that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

"*Recognizing also* the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

"*Reiterating* the importance of the vulnerability index as a means of defining and addressing the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the relevance of such work to the mandate of the Committee for Development Policy on criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of least developed countries,

"*Noting* the efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through adequate financial and technical support,

"*Emphasizing* the continuing need for the financing of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999, as well as the partnership initiatives presented by small island developing States and their organizations during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Noting* in this regard the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and expressing its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the

Alliance of Small Island States interregional preparatory meeting for the Summit from 7 to 11 January 2002,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;

"2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

"3. *Welcomes* efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

"4. *Requests* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system and the regional commissions and organizations, within their respective mandates, to undertake concrete measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in their programmes;

"5. *Decides* to convene an international meeting in 2004 including a summit segment to comprehensively review the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and welcomes the offer by the Government of Mauritius to host this international meeting;

"6. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review, as referred to in paragraph 5 above, shall focus on the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States through the development of an action-oriented plan of implementation;

"7. *Further decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States, in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop small island developing States-specific inputs into the review, as referred to in paragraph 5 above;

"8. *Welcomes* the initial efforts of the small island developing States to develop national and regional modalities that are necessary for the regional preparatory meetings, and calls upon the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in particular, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the multilateral financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to put in place modalities at the international level to facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above in a timely manner;

"9. *Decides* that the Commission on Sustainable Development shall act as the preparatory committee for the international meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, and shall undertake the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action and consider and finalize the plan for its implementation;

"10. *Invites* all Member States of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, and relevant regional and international agencies and organizations as well as the major groups identified in Agenda 21, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Commission on Sustainable Development as well as its established practices, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review;

"11. *Invites* all international meetings of relevance to small island developing States, including regional and interregional meetings of the small island developing States, to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process;

"12. *Calls* for the immediate strengthening of the Small Island Developing States Unit to assist with the preparation of the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"13. *Also calls* for the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the comprehensive review referred to above and in the preparatory process thereof, in the same capacity as observer that held for their participation in the 1994 Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and in the 1999 special session of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"14. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize by 2004 the work on the vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

"15. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled 'Environment and sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States';

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

7. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/57/L.79), which was corrected by the deletion of paragraph 4.

8. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/57/L.64), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20.

9. Also at the 44th meeting, the Committee was informed that the statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.2/57/L.79 also applied to draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

11. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Samoa (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Venezuela (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) and Tuvalu (see A/C.2/57/SR.44).

12. Also at the 44th meeting, the Chairman of the Committee read out the following statement:

> "Having now adopted the resolution on small island developing States, there are two related matters that I would like to draw to the attention of the Committee and ask that they bear in mind and convey to their capitals:
>
> "(a) First, in paragraph 5 of the resolution, we have decided to convene an international meeting in 2004. I understand that conference services has advised that the calendar of conferences currently has a gap in the latter part of August and early part of September 2004 during which the international meeting could take place. I also understand that the Group of 77 and China would like the meeting to take place during that period and are concerned that the current opening in the calendar of conferences not be lost. There also appears to be a general desire by members to bring clarity to the issue of the timing of the meeting at the next available opportunity. In the meantime, I would ask the Secretariat to draw this matter to the attention of the Committee on Conferences;
>
> "(b) Secondly, in paragraph 15 of the resolution, we have decided to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, and the least developed among them, in participating in the international meeting and its preparatory process. I understand that a similar fund was established for the 1994 Barbados Conference and that approximately $30,000 remains in that fund. I also understand that the Group of 77 and China would like to make use of those monies for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, and the least developed among them, to participate in the 2004 international meeting and its preparatory process. In order to do so, the Secretariat will need to obtain the agreement of all donors to the original 1994 fund. The Secretariat will shortly be writing to donor Governments to obtain their agreement."

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.64, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.20 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[1] and the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration[4] and review document[4] adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999 and 55/203 of 20 December 2000,

Taking into account also the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6]

Noting with interest the respective partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, international organizations and major groups, announced at the Summit,

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[7] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character,

Conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[7] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[8]

Recalling the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,[9] signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, which contains the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

Welcoming the adoption, on 16 October 1999 in Aruba, of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Welcoming also the entry into force, on 18 June 2000, of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife[11] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change and climate variability, associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Underlining the importance of the ongoing work of the working group on climate change and natural disasters established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Recognizing the Caribbean Environment Outlook process currently being undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme, and welcoming the

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[8] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

[10] See www.cep.unep.org/law.

[11] Ibid.

support being provided by the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme towards its implementation,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, presents a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of resolutions GC(44)/RES/17 of 22 September 2000[12] and GC(46)RES/9 of 20 September 2002[13] of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Noting the efforts of the Caribbean countries, within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States, to develop further support for their concept of the Caribbean Sea as an area of special importance, in the context of sustainable development and in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Welcoming the decision by the Association of Caribbean States to establish the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative to further advance the implementation of resolution 55/203, inter alia, through the preparation of a technical report,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and its importance to the heritage, and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[14]

2. *Recognizes* the importance of adopting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development;

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[12] See International Atomic Energy Agency, *Resolutions and Other Decisions of the General Conference, Forty-fourth Regular Session, 18-22 September 2000* (GC(44)/RES/DEC(2000)).

[13] Ibid., *Forty-sixth Regular Session, 16-20 September 2002* (GC(46)/RES/DEC(2002)).

[14] A/57/131.

3. *Encourages* the further promotion of an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, in accordance with the recommendations contained in resolution 54/225, as well as the provisions of Agenda 21,[3] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the outcome of the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly,[4] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development,[5] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[6] and the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in conformity with relevant international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;[7]

4. *Also encourages* the continued efforts of the Caribbean countries to develop further an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development and, in this regard, to continue to develop regional cooperation in the management of their ocean affairs in the context of sustainable development, in order to address such issues as land-based pollution, pollution from ships, physical impacts on coral reefs and the diversity and dynamic interaction of, and competition among, socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources;

5. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, and also calls upon them to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,[15] and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities;[16]

6. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

7. *Calls upon* all relevant States to take the necessary steps to bring into force, and to support the implementation of, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities[10] to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region[9] in order to protect the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from land-based pollution and degradation;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts of the Working Group of Experts on the Caribbean Sea Initiative of the Association of Caribbean States to further implement resolution 55/203, and invites the Association to submit a report on its progress to the Secretary-General for consideration during the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

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[15] A/51/116, annex II.

[16] E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/15, annex, sect. I.

9. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution and degradation from ships;

10. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes by strengthening the recently established Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism;

11. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[17] to develop national, regional and international programmes for halting the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems, such as coral reefs;

12. *Invites* intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols and to implement them effectively;

13. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the above-mentioned approach;

14. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations.

Draft resolution II
Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,

Recalling also its resolutions 51/183 of 16 December 1996, 52/202 of 18 December 1997 and 53/189 of 15 December 1998, the review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[4] and its resolutions 54/224 of 22 December 1999, 55/199 of 20 December 2000, 55/202 of 20 December 2000 and 56/198 of 21 December 2001, and recalling further the Declaration of Barbados[2] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3]

[17] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[5] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[6] the particular emphasis given to small island developing States in the Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, and the call for the General Assembly to consider convening an international meeting for a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 2004,

Recalling the report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on its tenth session,[18]

Welcoming the establishment of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and emphasizing the importance of issues related to small island developing States within the United Nations system,

Recognizing that, within the context of the challenges of development, small island developing States experience specific problems arising from small size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragile ecosystems, constraints on transport and communication, isolation from markets, vulnerability to exogenous economic and financial shocks, limited internal markets, lack of natural resources, limited freshwater supply, heavy dependence on imports and limited commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources and migration,

Recognizing also the significant efforts of small island developing States to achieve sustainable development and the need to continue to enhance their capacities to participate effectively in the multilateral financial and trading system,

Reiterating the importance of the vulnerability index as a tool for assessing, and thereby addressing, the vulnerability of small island developing States, as well as identifying the challenges to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the relevance of such work to the mandate of the Committee for Development Policy concerning criteria for the identification, including designation and graduation, of the least developed countries,

Noting the efforts to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States at the national, regional and international levels and the need for regional and global institutions to continue to supplement the efforts being made at the national level, inter alia, through the provision of adequate financial and technical support,

Emphasizing the continuing need for the technical and financial support of projects that were presented within the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, at the meeting of representatives of donor countries and small island developing States, held in New York from 24 to 26 February 1999,[19] as well as the partnership initiatives presented by small island developing States and their organizations during the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Noting in this regard the preparatory activities undertaken at the national and regional levels for the World Summit on Sustainable Development and expressing

[18] TD/390.

[19] See A/S-22/4.

its appreciation to the Government of Singapore for hosting the interregional meeting of the Alliance of Small Island States held in preparation for the Summit from 7 to 11 January 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[20]

2. *Reiterates* the urgent need for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[3] and of the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session[4] to assist small island developing States in their efforts to achieve sustainable development;

3. *Welcomes* the efforts made at the national, subregional and regional levels to implement the Programme of Action;

4. *Requests* the relevant organs and agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the regional commissions and organizations, to undertake concrete measures, within their respective mandates, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the context of their programmes;

5. *Decides* to convene an international meeting in 2004, which will include a high-level segment, to undertake a full and comprehensive review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, as called for in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[21] and welcomes the offer of the Government of Mauritius to host the international meeting;

6. *Also decides* that the comprehensive review referred to in paragraph 5 above should seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to, and should focus on, practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, inter alia, through the mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;

7. *Further decides* to convene regional preparatory meetings of small island developing States in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, as well as an interregional preparatory meeting for all small island developing States, to undertake the review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional and regional levels and to identify and develop input for the above-mentioned review that is specific to small island developing States while maximizing coherence and complementarity with respect to other preparatory work;

8. *Welcomes* the initial efforts of the small island developing States to develop the national and regional modalities necessary for the regional preparatory meetings, and calls upon the United Nations system in general and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat in particular, as well as the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the multilateral financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, to put in place modalities at the international level that will facilitate the meetings referred to in paragraphs 5 and 7 above in a timely manner;

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[20] A/57/131.

[21] See *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 61.

9. *Requests* that, in facilitating the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the United Nations system seek country input that is short and well-focused and that draws upon, inter alia, material prepared for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in order to minimize the burden on participating States while maximizing the usefulness of the information gathered;

10. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, to consider its role in the preparatory process for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

11. *Invites* all Member States and States members of the specialized agencies, relevant regional and international agencies and organizations and the major groups identified in Agenda 21,[22] in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission on Sustainable Development[23] and the rules of procedure of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[24] as well as the established practices of the Commission, to participate fully in the activities identified for the further implementation of and effective follow-up to the Programme of Action and in the preparations for the comprehensive review;

12. *Invites* all international meetings of relevance to small island developing States, including the regional and interregional meetings of small island developing States, to provide relevant input into the comprehensive review and its preparatory process;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, pursuant to paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 56/198, to give further consideration to strengthening the Small Island Developing States Unit, inter alia, through the regularization of the current post of Interregional Adviser for Small Island Developing States at the earliest opportunity, thereby enabling the Unit to assist in the preparations for the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action;

14. *Calls* for the participation of associate members of regional commissions in the comprehensive review of the Programme of Action, and in the preparatory process therefor, as observers, in the same capacity specified for their participation in the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in 1994, and in the twenty-second special session of the General Assembly, held in 1999 to review the implementation of the Programme of Action;

15. *Decides* to establish a voluntary fund for the purpose of assisting small island developing States, including the least developed among them, to participate fully and effectively in the international meeting referred to in paragraph 5 above, as well as in the various preparatory processes referred to in paragraph 7 above, and

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[22] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II. The major groups are women; young people; indigenous people and their communities; non-governmental organizations; local authorities; workers and their trade unions; business and industry, including transnational corporations; the scientific and technological community; and farmers.

[23] See *Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of the Economic and Social Council* (E/5975/Rev.1).

[24] A/CONF.199/2 and Corr.1.

invites Governments, intergovernmental organizations and the major groups accredited to the Commission on Sustainable Development to contribute to the fund;

16. *Urges* all relevant organizations to finalize, by 2004, the work on the vulnerability index, taking into account the particular circumstances and needs of small island developing States;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-eighth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States";

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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Agenda item 87

Environment and sustainable development

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 87 (see A/57/532, para. 2). Action on the item as a whole was taken at the 37th and 44th meetings, on 18 November and 11 December 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.37 and 44).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.40 and A/C.2/57/L.92

2. At the 37th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session" (A/C.2/57/L.40), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/57/532 and Add.1-7.

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"*Taking into account* the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development, in particular, Chapter XI on an institutional framework for sustainable development,

"*Recalling* relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation, in particular paragraph 140 (d), in which the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme, adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Recognizing* that the question of establishing the universal membership of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme requires a thorough analysis by the Member States and the United Nations system,

"*Having considered* the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session as well as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development,

"*Underlining* the unique role of the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental decision-making body of the United Nations, in giving consideration to the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme and, therefore, the need for the General Assembly to consider all its implications, including legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making such a decision,

"*Reaffirming* the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the development needs of developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session;

"2. *Emphasizes* the need to implement the recommendations to strengthen the role of the United Nations Environment Programme in the provision of capacity-building for and technology transfer to developing countries, as decided during the seventh special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as paragraph 137 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit for Sustainable Development;

"3. *Expresses* its appreciation to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as endorsed by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;

"4. *Takes note* of the agreement contained in the Plan of Implementation to fully implement the outcomes of decision I of the seventh special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on international environmental governance;

"5. *Invites* Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Environment Programme, as well as multilateral environmental agreements to submit their written comments on the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, to the Secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General, on the basis of those views, to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

"6. *Decides* to further consider at its fifty-eighth session the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, to submit a report on the implementation of other sections of decision I of the seventh special session of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, in particular section D, and in supporting the implementation of the General Assembly resolution 53/242, and reiterates its desire that the reports on the work of the Environment Management Group be made available to the Member States for its consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

"8. *Notes* other decisions adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session;

"9. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme and, in this regard, underlines the continued need to increase United Nations regular budget funding for the cost of servicing the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in accordance with section B of decision I of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session;

"10. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, bearing in mind paragraph 127 of the Plan of Implementation;

"11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under constant review, to make further proposals towards strengthening the United Nations Environment Programme at Nairobi and to increase support to the United Nations Office at Nairobi to the levels of the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations Office at Vienna."

3. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kara (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh session" (A/C.2/57/L.92), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.40.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.92 (see para. 10, draft resolution I).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.92, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.40 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.41 and A/C.2/57/L.86

6. At the 37th meeting, on 18 November, the representative of Tajikistan, on behalf also of Japan and the Russian Federation, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003" (A/C.2/57/L.41). Subsequently, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Switzerland, Thailand and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000 proclaiming 2003 as the International Year of Freshwater, and resolution 56/192 of 21 December 2001 on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,

"*Recalling also* the relevant provisions of Agenda 21 and decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session, relating to freshwater, and, in particular, freshwater provisions in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in September 2002,

"*Welcoming and encouraging* the partnerships related to freshwater announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

"*Reaffirming* the Millennium development goal to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or afford safe drinking water and the goal of the World Summit on Sustainable Development to reduce by half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,

"*Recalling* its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

"*Noting* the efforts for the elaboration of the *World Water Development Report* and the preparations for the Third World Water Forum and the International Ministerial Conference, to be held in Japan in March 2003,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,

"1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by Member States, the Secretariat, the lead agencies, in particular the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, and other organizations of the United Nations system that are engaged in work related to freshwater, as well as major groups, in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encourages them to continue and expand their efforts;

"2. *Encourages* all States, relevant international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the Year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions;

"3. *Also encourages* all Member States, the United Nations system and major groups to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater to raise awareness of the strategic importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs and for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and calls for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially in the developing countries;

"4. *Further encourages* partnerships between Member States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, major groups and the private sector to sponsor and promote the International Year of Freshwater and projects, including the dissemination of messages, the production of educational material and projects in the field;

"5. *Encourages* interested stakeholders, such as international organizations, major groups and others, to link their water-related activities to the International Year of Freshwater;

"6. *Calls upon* Member States that have not already done so to create national committees or designate focal points in their respective countries to facilitate and promote activities related to the International Year at the local and national levels;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session an interim report on the activities undertaken for the International Year of Freshwater and to report on further efforts to achieve the sustainable development of water resources."

7. At the 44th meeting, on 11 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Jan Kára (Czech Republic), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003" (A/C.2/57/L.86), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.86 (see para. 10, draft resolution II).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.86, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.41 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

10. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, by which it established the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Also recalling its resolutions 53/242 of 28 July 1999 and 56/193 of 21 December 2001 on the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-first session,

Having considered the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session,[1]

Taking into account the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2]

Recalling that in the Plan of Implementation the General Assembly was invited to consider, at its fifty-seventh session, the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme,

Underlining the unique role of the General Assembly, as the highest intergovernmental decision-making body of the United Nations, in giving consideration to the issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme and, therefore, the need for a thorough analysis by Member States and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to enable the General Assembly to fully consider all its implications, including legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, before making a decision,

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the principal body within the United Nations system in the field of environment, which should take into account, within its mandate, the sustainable development needs of developing countries as well as countries with economies in transition,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventh special session, and the decisions contained therein;[1]

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Group of Ministers or Their Representatives on International Environmental Governance for its report as adopted by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;

3. *Recalls* the decision made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to fully implement the outcomes of decision 1 on international environmental governance adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its seventh special session;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/57/25).

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

4. *Invites* Member States, the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to submit to the Secretariat their comments on the important but complex issue of establishing universal membership for the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, including its legal, political, institutional, financial and system-wide implications, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report incorporating those views to the General Assembly for its consideration before its sixtieth session;

5. *Reiterates* its desire to be informed on the work of the Environment Management Group;

6. *Requests* the United Nations Environment Programme, within its mandate, to continue to contribute to sustainable development programmes and the implementation of Agenda 21[3] at all levels, bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

7. *Reiterates* the need for stable, adequate and predictable financial resources for the United Nations Environment Programme, and in this regard and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) underlines the need to consider adequate reflection of all administrative and management costs of the United Nations Environment Programme in the context of the United Nations regular budget;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to keep the resource needs of the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Office at Nairobi under review so as to permit the delivery in an effective manner of necessary services to the United Nations Environment Programme and other United Nations organs and organizations in Nairobi.

Draft resolution II
Activities undertaken in preparation for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/196 of 20 December 2000 proclaiming 2003 the International Year of Freshwater, and its resolution 56/192 of 21 December 2001 on the status of preparations for the International Year of Freshwater, 2003,

Recalling also the provisions of Agenda 21,[4] the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, adopted by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session,[5] decisions of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

sixth session,[6] relating to freshwater, and those contained in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[7]

Noting with interest the partnership initiatives voluntarily undertaken by some Governments, international organizations and major groups and announced at the Summit,

Recalling the commitment made at the World Summit on Sustainable Development to launch programmes of action, with financial and technical assistance, to achieve the Millennium development goal on safe drinking water, namely, to halve by 2015 the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water, as outlined in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] and the goal of the Summit to halve the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation,[9]

Recalling also its resolution 53/199 of 15 December 1998 on the proclamation of international years,

Noting the efforts made in preparation for the Third World Water Forum and International Ministerial Conference, to be held in Japan in March 2003, and for the elaboration of the *World Water Development Report*,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[10]

1. *Welcomes* the activities undertaken by States, the Secretariat, and the organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system that are engaged in inter-agency work related to freshwater and by major groups in preparation for the observance of the International Year of Freshwater, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

2. *Encourages* all Member States, relevant international organizations and major groups to support activities related to the year, inter alia, through voluntary contributions, and to link their relevant activities to the International Year of Freshwater;

3. *Also encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and major groups to take advantage of the International Year of Freshwater to raise awareness of the essential importance of freshwater resources for satisfying basic human needs and for health and food production and the preservation of ecosystems, as well as for economic and social development in general, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels, and calls for high priority to be given to the serious freshwater problems facing many regions, especially developing countries;

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[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 9* (E/1998/29).

[7] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[8] See resolution 55/2, para. 19.

[9] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chap. I, resolution 2, annex, para. 25.

[10] A/57/132.

4. *Further encourages* voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to promote activities related to the International Year of Freshwater;

5. *Calls upon* Member States that have not already done so to create national committees or designate focal points in their respective countries to facilitate and promote activities related to the International Year at the local and national levels;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to promote closer coordination to elaborate and support proposals and undertake activities related to the International Year of Freshwater;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.